

# Office of the Mayor and Council

710 Mill Bay Road, Room 220, Kodiak, Alaska 99615

March 29, 2007

John Tolley Chief, Planning and Administrative Services Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities P.O. Box 196900 Anchorage, AK 99519-6900

Subject:

Comment on Draft Amendment #13 to the 2006-2009 Statewide Transporta-

tion Improvement Program (STIP)

Rezanof "Y" Intersection Project, Need ID 2440

Dear Mr. Tolley:

As you know, the Rezanof "Y" Intersection Project was planned to go out to bid in April of this year. Amendment #13 moves the project to FFY09. Unfortunately, this is not the first, or even the second, time that this project has been "pushed out" in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). We respectfully request this project be bid in April 2007, as planned, with construction starting this construction season.

## **Time from Conception to Construction**

The STIP first showed the Y project in 1988. Of course, the actual conception was several years prior to the project showing up in the STIP. We are sure that you will agree that there is a serious problem when a project takes two decades to reach construction. Even if each and every prior excuse for delaying this project were valid, after twenty years there is no longer any acceptable reason for continuing to delay the proiect.

#### City Utilities in the Y

The City has a sixteen-inch asbestos cement (AC) waterline in the project area that is more than fifty years old. We have started to experience catastrophic failures of AC pipe of this age. This line has an operating pressure of over one hundred psi. A failure of this line would likely cause extensive property damage in downtown Kodiak. Furthermore, this waterline serves the high water demands of our seafood processing industry. Any disruption of the line during high processing times would have an economic impact on the processors that could be devastating to our community.

The project area also includes an old ten-inch AC water main that parallels the sixteeninch waterline and an old AC sewer main that is not performing well and requires frequent maintenance.

Comments on Draft STIP Amendment #13 Page 2 of 3

### Replacement of City Utilities

The City has designed replacements to the AC lines through the Y. The sixteen- and ten-inch water mains will be replaced with a single twenty-inch ductile iron pipe (DIP) main. The sewer will be completely reconstructed with appropriately sized and sloped DIP. The City applied several years ago for a permit to work in the State right-of-way to construct our utility project. ADOT placed several conditions on the permit that we believed were unreasonable. The City consistently objected to the unreasonable permit conditions and it took us two years to have the most objectionable conditions removed and a permit issued for us to work in the right-of-way. Interestingly enough, one of the conditions we successfully sought to have removed was the requirement that we maintain the roadway until ADOT completed the Y project. It now appears that our concerns about ADOT proceeding with this project were well founded.

The water main replacement can only be constructed during the months of April and May when there is low water use by our seafood processors. We were unable to combine our utility project with the State's Y project, because ADOT staff could not assure the City that the timing of the State's project could comply with the need to construct the water main only during these two months. ADOT project manager Mike Hall, as well as Ken Morton, worked closely with us to hammer out our final permit conditions and the timing of our utility project with ADOT's Y project. We really appreciate the cooperation of these ADOT staff members.

## Commitment of the City of Kodiak

The City advertised our utility project on October 27, 2006, with a bid opening date of December 8, 2006. Unfortunately, we did not receive any bids on our project. We discussed this with Mike Hall and, although he refrained from making any rash promises, Mike believed ADOT's project was still on track to advertise in April 2007. Needless to say, this put the City in an awkward position. To avoid the economic and public relations disaster of constructing our utilities after ADOT completed reconstructing the Y, we negotiated with Kiewit Pacific Company to construct our utility project.

The City engineer's estimate for our utility project was \$1,359,093. The best price we could negotiate with Kiewit was \$2,762,570. We could not justify either delaying the ADOT Y project or performing our utility project after your project. We believed that finally everything was lined up so that disruption to the City's only artery would occur for just one construction season. Therefore, the Kodiak City Council contracted our utility project to Kiewit. Materials and equipment are on the way to Kodiak and Kiewit personnel will start arriving next week.

You can imagine our dismay to see that Amendment #13 to the STIP delays your project to FFY09. To make matters worse, to get our permit, we had to agree to pave back the street and fix the sidewalk cuts if there was any delay to your project. We estimate this work will cost us an additional \$331,550. So you can see, the City of Kodiak will spend an additional \$1.75 million to do our project, and the community and Comments on Draft STIP Amendment #13 Page 3 of 3

the businesses in the Y will still be subjected to two severe interruptions if the State's Y project is delayed.

#### Our Request

Please do not alter the timing of the Rezanof Y Intersection Project in Amendment #13 to the STIP. Please advertise the Rezanof Y Intersection Project now, and award the construction bid as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Carolyn L. Floyd

Mayor

Governor Sarah Palin ¢: Senator Gary Stevens Representative Gabrielle LeDoux Commissioner Leo von Scheben Central Region Director Gordon Keith